

Appl. No.: 10/701,873

Amendment dated April 17, 2006

Reply to Office Action of 02/10/2006

Amendment to the claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims

Claims 1-10 (canceled)

11. (currently amended) A hand-held machine for piercing sheets of material comprising:

an adjustable apparatus that can be moved by hand;

the adjustable apparatus acts as a stop to a moveable cutting die containing a punch pattern thereby varying an amount of the punch pattern cut into a sheet of material being punched;

the moveable cutting die is designed with a cutting surface so that said adjustable apparatus can limit the amount of said sheet of said material cut by said cutting surface;

the adjustable apparatus can be moved to a position so that said designed pattern of said punch is fully cut out of said sheet of said material by the movement of said moveable cutting die;

a frame which holds said adjustable apparatus and said moveable cutting die with said moveable cutting die held in the top of said frame and a hole corresponding to said moveable cutting die in a base of said frame wherein said frame aligns said moveable cutting die to said hole allowing for said moveable cutting die to be moved through said hole;

a slot in said frame with said slot extending partially through said frame to accept and restrain said sheet of said material prior to said sheet of said material being punched, whereby said slot is fixed in size during a punch operation;

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a means to activate said moveable cutting die moving said cutting die to where it contacts said sheet of said material in said slot cutting said sheet of said material;

a spring installed within said frame to return said moveable cutting die to a starting position allowing easy removal of said sheet of said material;

~~A hand-held machine for piercing sheets of material as claimed in claim 1 further comprising and a housing to enclose said frame and to permanently enclose a portion of said means of activating said moveable cutting die.~~

12. (currently amended) A hand-held machine for piercing sheets of material comprising:

an adjustable apparatus that can be moved by hand;
the adjustable apparatus acts as a stop to a moveable cutting die containing a punch pattern thereby varying an amount of the punch pattern cut into a sheet of material being punched;

the moveable cutting die is designed with a cutting surface so that said adjustable apparatus can limit the amount of said sheet of said material cut by said cutting surface;

the adjustable apparatus can be moved to a position so that said designed pattern of said punch is fully cut out of said sheet of said material by the movement of said moveable cutting die;

a frame which holds said adjustable apparatus and said moveable cutting die with said moveable cutting die held in the top of said frame and a hole corresponding to said moveable cutting die in a base of said frame wherein said frame aligns said moveable cutting die to said hole allowing for said moveable cutting die to be moved through said hole;

a slot in said frame with said slot extending partially through said frame to accept and restrain said sheet of said material prior to said

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sheet of said material being punched, whereby said slot is fixed in size
during a punch operation;

a means to activate said moveable cutting die moving said
cutting die to where it contacts said sheet of said material in said slot
cutting said sheet of said material;

a spring installed within said frame to return said moveable
cutting die to a starting position allowing easy removal of said sheet of
said material;

a housing to enclose said frame and to permanently enclose a portion of
said means of activating said moveable cutting die.

~~A hand-held machine for piercing sheets of material as claimed in claim 1~~
wherein a portion of said adjustable apparatus is fabricated as an integral part of said housing.

13 (currently amended) A hand-held machine for piercing sheets of
material as claimed in claim 12 further comprising a locking hinge mechanism located at said base of said machine where said locking hinge mechanism allows said base to be moved away from the rest of said machine following said material piercing thereby allowing for easy release of said material and said locking hinge mechanism then allows said base to be returned to the original starting position.

Claim 14-25 (canceled)

26.(currently amended) A hand-held machine for piercing sheets of
material comprising:

an adjustable apparatus that can be moved by hand;

the adjustable apparatus acts as a stop to a moveable cutting die containing a punch pattern thereby varying an amount of the punch pattern cut into a sheet of material being punched;

the moveable cutting die is designed with a cutting surface so that said adjustable apparatus can limit the amount of said sheet of said material cut by said cutting surface;

the adjustable apparatus can be moved to a position so that said designed pattern of a punch is cut fully out of said sheet of said material by the movement of said moveable cutting die;

a frame which holds said adjustable apparatus and said moveable punch cutting die with said moveable cutting die held in the top of said frame and a hole corresponding to said moveable cutting die in a base of said frame wherein said frame aligns said moveable cutting die to said hole allowing for said moveable cutting die to be moved through said hole;

a slot in said frame with said slot extending partially through said frame to accept and restrain said sheet of said material prior to said sheet of said material being punched, whereby said slot is fixed in size during a punch operation;

a means to activate said moveable cutting die moving said cutting die to where it contacts said sheet of said material in said slot cutting said sheet of said material;

a housing to enclose said frame and to permanently enclose a portion of said means of activating said moveable cutting die;

~~A hand-held machine for piercing sheets of material as claimed in claim 16 wherein a portion of said adjustable apparatus is fabricated as an integral part of said housing.~~

27(currently amended). A hand-held machine for piercing sheets of material as claimed in ~~claim 26~~~~claim 16~~ further comprising a locking hinge

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mechanism located at the base of said machine where said locking hinge mechanism allows said base to be moved away from the rest of said machine following said material piercing thereby allowing for easy release of said material and said locking hinge mechanism then allows said base to be returned to the original starting position.

Claims 28-29 (Canceled)

30.(currently amended) An adjustable separate apparatus that can be added to existing hand-held sheet punches comprising:

 said separate adjustable apparatus acts as a stop to a moveable cutting die containing a punch pattern thereby limiting the amount of said punch pattern cut into a sheet of material being punched;

 said moveable cutting die is designed with a curved cutting surface so that said adjustable apparatus can limit the amount of paper cut by said curved surface;

 said separate adjustable apparatus can be moved to a position so that said designed pattern of said punch is cut fully out of said sheet of material,;

 and said separate adjustable apparatus is permanently installed on a housing of existing hand-held sheet punches

32. (withdrawn-currently amended) A separate adjustable apparatus as claimed in claim 31 that is attached to a housing of said hand-held sheet punch by using a technique that makes said apparatus capable of being removed and reattached to said hand-held sheet punch.